RCMP BOSS SLAMS COMPLAINTS CHAIR, PG7

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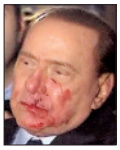
Italian PM attacked, hit with statuette

MILAN An attacker hurled a statuette at Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, striking the leader in the face at the end of a rally yesterday and leaving the stunned 73-year-old media mogul with a broken nose and bloodied mouth.



Berlusconi

Police said the 42-year-old man accused of attacking Berlusconi as he signed autographs in Milan was immediately taken into custody. Berlusconi was rushed to a hospital where he was being held overnight.

The attack occurred at a time when Berlusconi, one of Italy's wealthiest men, is embroiled in a sex scandal, a divorce case with his wife and public protests demanding his resignation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Celebrity Buzz pg 18

Taylor defends Taylor on SNL

On the web
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Snow's comin' **Shovel and snowplow forecast**

STIG NIELSEN/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Ten-week-old Inja has her first walk on snow with owner Megan Hofmeyr at George Wainborn Park yesterday. As much as 20 centimetres are expected tonight. **Story, page 3.**

Singing the royalty blues

TransLink says deal in works

SEAN KOLENKO
for Metro Vancouver

Some buskers working Vancouver's transit system say they're unhappy they're being asked to pay more for song royalties just before the Olympics.

Rene Hugo, who has been performing in transit stations since 1992, said he wants TransLink to settle on how much more buskers would have to pay with the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (Socan).

"I don't know if I could afford to pay more," Hugo said yesterday. "If it were to cost more than $300 a year, I think it's too much. If they called and told me that, I wouldn't be here for the Olympics, no way."

Buskers currently pay $75 a year. Hugo says he can make about $50 per weekend.

Socan, which acts on behalf of 95,000 composers, authors and music publishers and covers more than three million compositions, has a deal with the Toronto Transit Commission that sees artists pay $150 per year. The TTC absorbs the rest of the cost — $23,000 annually — and Socan wants a similar deal here.

At a time when TransLink is forecasting deficits, if it doesn't agree to the extra expenditure, all costs would be passed on to buskers or the program would be cancelled.

SEAN KOLENKO/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Rene Hugo at Waterfront station yesterday.

"The TTC operates a successful music program and pays Socan a licence fee…" Jeff King, Socan's vice president of licencing, said in a release. "TransLink is also required to pay a licence fee. However, the decision about whether to pass any of that cost along to the buskers is TransLink's alone."

Ken Hardie, TransLink spokersperson, said a deal is in the works.

"We want music for those long queues," he said. "There will be more meetings this week."

Hugo said TransLink has always been fair with him.

"I love sharing my art with the people, so I hope I can stay," Hugo added.

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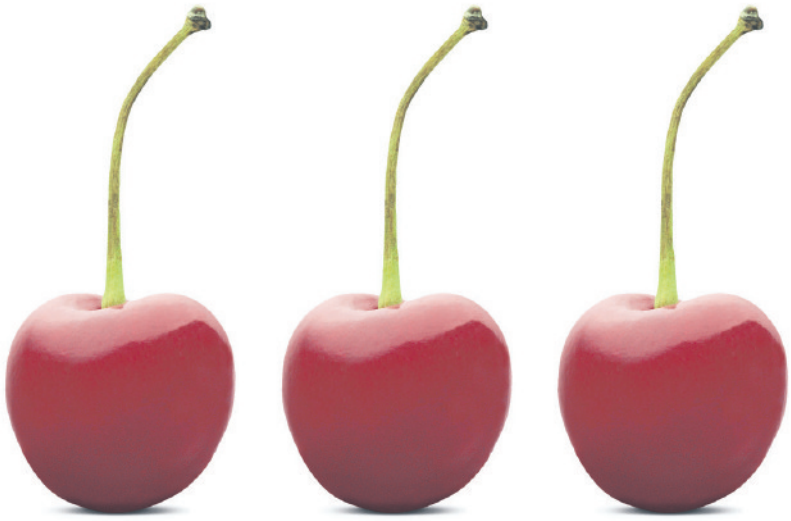

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ScanLife

Local

Supporting the animals

Pop star Kelly Clarkson, the first American Idol winner, has penned her signature to a Prestige Heritage Standard guitar, left, that its Burnaby-based manufacturer is auctioning on eBay until Dec. 21 to raise funds for the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

METRO VANCOUVER

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
2009 Festival of Media Awards

News in brief

DEATH A 32-year-old Victoria man has died after his scooter collided with another vehicle near Dunsmuir and Cambie streets. Vancouver police say neither speed nor alcohol appear to be factors in the accident.

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What's online today.

Immigration Guidy Mamann, below, celebrates a victory for live-in caregivers after Ottawa unveils changes to the nanny program at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries

Friday, Dec. 11
Lotto Max: 1, 4, 5, 7, 22, 29 & 48 Bonus 13
Saturday, Dec. 12
Lotto 6/49: 16, 20, 26, 31, 38 & 49 Bonus 42
These results are not official.

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Robson Square **Santa's new ride**

STIG NIELSEN/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Santa Claus trades his sleigh for a zamboni and reindeers for ice-maker Ron Fell at the Robson Square ice rink yesterday. The appearance marked the start of the Twelve Days of Christmas celebration at the iconic downtown plaza.

Get shovel ready

Up to 20 cm of snow expected to hit city today

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

"The amount could be significant ... enough snow to get snowplows out."
John McIntyre, meteorologist

You may want to pack yourself some extra clothing and patience for the morning commute tomorrow, as Metro Vancouver is expected to get as much as 20 centimetres of snow tonight.

The whisper of flurries that fell intermittently all weekend were just a hint of things to come, said John McIntyre, meteorologist with Environment Canada.

"(Today) should start pleasant enough, there may even be a little sun in the morning, and then the clouds will increase and we expect the snow to begin in the evening some time," said McIntyre.

"The amount could be significant, close to 20 centimetres in some locations … That's enough snow to get snowplows out (tonight) for sure."

As if that doesn't sound bad enough, there's a chance the snow will turn into freezing rain in some places.

"(It could be) a nasty night," McIntyre said. "Tuesday morning is probably going to be nasty (too, then) it will change to rain."

The storm is expected to make way for a warm front, with the temperature moving up to a balmy 8 C tomorrow afternoon.

While McIntyre said this December won't be anywhere near as snowy as it was last year — when six consecutive storms crippled the region and airport — the city has invested in new equipment to combat the white stuff.

Murray Wightman, manager of street operations for Vancouver, said five new snowplows and two new snowblowers have been added to the fleet.

He added that the city has a separate snow-removal strategy in place in case of storms during the Olympics.

Anti-Olympic mural returns

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

SEAN KOLENKO/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

The mural, painted outside of The Crying Room art gallery.

ART An anti-Olympic mural that was removed after the city deemed it graffiti once again adorns the facade of an art gallery in the Downtown Eastside.

Civil-rights watchdogs have pointed at the mural's removal as proof of the threat to freedom of expression during the Games.

But a Vision councillor maintains that the removal order, while regrettable, was simply a case of staff acting in good faith after receiving complaints.

"I think, frankly, that it's just a bit of a bureaucratic snafu, said Coun. Geoff Meggs yesterday.

"I'm sorry that it happened, but it's not representative of how we want to protect civil rights during the Games. And we've been adamant that we do."

The mural shows five Olympic rings, four with frowning faces, the fifth with a smiley face. It had hung for three months on the front of The Crying Room art gallery on Cordova Street at Main Street.

It was taken down in November under the city's graffiti bylaw. The mural was back up this weekend (the grin on the smiley face is bigger).

COPE Coun. Ellen Woodsworth called its removal a violation of free speech and artistic expression.

David Eby, executive director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, said the city should treat anti-Olympic messaging the same as pro-Olympic messaging.

The display space had been used since 2003 without incident.

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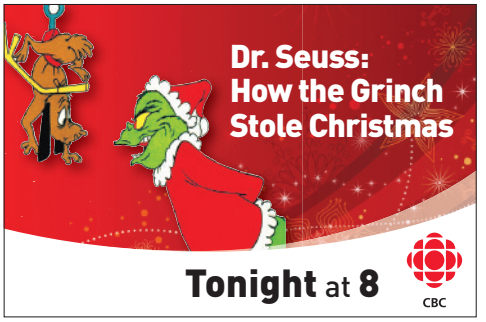

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KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Squamish boardercross champion Maëlle Ricker reacts while watching a video biography of herself at the West Vancouver Community Centre yesterday.

Ricker's eyes on the prize

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

After just missing the podium in the 2006 Torino Olympics, Squamish's Maëlle Ricker wants to be the first Canadian athlete to win gold on home soil.

Ricker came fourth in the event, which debuted in the 2006 Games, and says she's spending the next two months training on mountains around North America to prepare for a second shot at the podium.

"We leave (today) for Colorado," Ricker said of her busy travel schedule. "There'll be a little bit of a Christmas break then (I'll do) four or five races before February."

Ricker said boardercross, also known as snowboarder cross, has changed a lot since the Torino Games.

"It's definitely (still) evolving," she said. "There's a lot of new technology that's come out with regards to boards, and the courses are getting more and more technical and more precise."

She said the half pipes have recently gone from 18 feet to 22 feet and that, coupled with changing board technology, makes for faster rides and more technical tricks — and more interest from the next generation of boarders.

City may test solar-powered hot water

ENERGY Vancouver is contemplating a small pilot project that would cover partial costs of installing solar hot water systems in some new houses.

"It's unquestionably a modest program," Vision Coun. Andrea Reimer said of the proposed pilot project that would be in effect for one year, or 50 homes on a first-come first-served basis.

"Within 10 years I suspect we'll be well beyond modest and it'll become a mainstream thing."

Under the proposal, the city, Terasen Gas and B.C. Solar would pay for half the costs of installing a solar hot water system, up to $3,600.

The average price of a system is $6,800, plus $400 for monitoring costs. The city's total contribution would be $50,000.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Three TransLink execs dismissed

TRANSIT TransLink's executive board is getting smaller as the company announced plans to let go three senior managers.

Terry Peterson, chief information officer, John Madden, vice-president of human resources and Sheri Plewes, vice-president of engineering, are on the way out.

"The date is still a subject of discussion between TransLink and those concerned," said spokesperson Ken Hardie. "But we are losing three good people."

Hardie said the decision was not prompted by a recent comptroller general's report that called for a slim-down of executives: "We started our own evaluations internally over a year ago. These decisions are a result of that process, not just the report."

TransLink is forecasting a $78-million deficit for 2009, according to a report published last Wednesday.

SEAN KOLENKO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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Queen Charlotte Islands to be renamed

The Queen Charlotte Islands off the north coast of British Columbia will be officially renamed Haida Gwaii under the terms of a "reconciliation" agreement signed by the provincial government with the Haida Nation. METRO VANCOUVER

Deaths net prison term

A young man who was drunk behind an SUV travelling 120 kilometres per hour when he hit and killed a newly engaged couple at a Vancouver crosswalk has been sentenced to three years in prison.

A judge handed down the sentence for 18-year-old Kurtis Rock after Rock pleaded guilty to several charges including impaired driving causing death.

The crash happened last February just outside Granville Island.

Rock left the scene immediately after the crash, but was arrested soon after.

Cardiologist Aneez Mohamed, 31, and his 25-year-old fiancee, Chanelle Morgan, were killed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CHARGED A 27-year-old man has been charged after a woman had her buttocks grabbed while working at Pacific Centre Mall, Vancouver police said. The man allegedly whistled and made lewd comments toward a 19-year-old employee before trying to touch her hair and grabbing her buttocks. Moustafa Amin, a North Vancouver resident, is charged with sexual assault.

BREACH OF RIGHTS The Crown has admitted that, for seven months, a jail recorded phone calls between a lawyer and a man accused in a mass murder in Surrey. A judge said it was a serious breach of alleged gang leader Jamie Bacon's rights.

STABBINGS Six people were stabbed in two separate altercations in Surrey and Burnaby over the weekend. Some of the victims were sent to hospital and police say no arrests have been made so far.

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Vehicles allowed back on Confederation Bridge 7
Restrictions on high-sided vehicles on the Confederation Bridge linking New Brunswick and P.E.I. were lifted yesterday. The span was closed Friday because of strong winds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

RCMP boss slams complaints chair

The head of the RCMP is bidding the force's complaints commissioner farewell by accusing him of creating an "inaccurate" picture that suggests the Mounties have obstructed the work of the federal police agency's independent watchdog.

The final weeks of Paul Kennedy's term as the chair of the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP have been marked by a public squabble with RCMP Commissioner William Elliott.

Kennedy, who leaves his post at the end of the month, released two damning reports last week while describing the force as a "massively inert" organization that is resistant to change.

"An inaccurate perception of the actions and motivations of the RCMP has been created."
RCMP Commissioner William Elliott

And in both cases — first a report into the death of Robert Dziekanski and then another into the use of a Taser on a 15-year-old girl in the Northwest Territories — Elliott posted letters on the RCMP website taking exception with the timing of the reports and Kennedy's comments about the force.

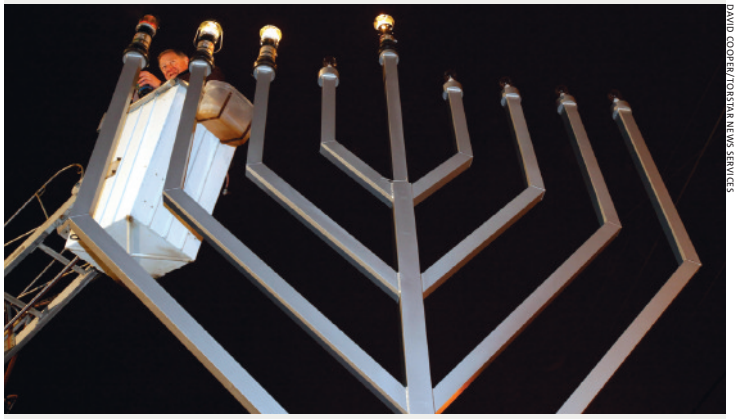
"Of more concern is the impression left by your public comments that the RCMP, and I as commissioner, are motivated or have attempted to prevent reports critical of the force from being made public. I categorically reject this," Elliott wrote to Kennedy in a letter released by the RCMP on Friday.

"An inaccurate perception of the actions and motivations of the RCMP has been created."

Typically, reports from the complaints commission include a response from the RCMP, but Kennedy set the release dates for the latest pair of reports before the force had formally replied.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto **Lighting the menorah**



DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Toronto Coun. Howard Moscoe lights the menorah on the third evening of Hanukkah observance last night.

Anti-terrorist law under review

SECURITY The federal government has launched a sweeping review of a crumbling anti-terrorist law, acknowledging the system needs fixing, The Canadian Press has learned.

The review of the rickety national-security certificate system could scrap or revamp a law used to arrest and deport non-Canadians considered a threat to national security.

Certificates have existed for three decades, and more than two dozen have been issued since 1991, when they became part of federal immigration law. Six cases have been initiated since the 9-11 attacks in the United States.

But legal challenges and upbraidings from judges over miscues by Canada's spy agency have seen recent cases slow to a crawl or collapse altogether.

Opponents say the process is fundamentally unfair because detainees are not given full details of the allegations against them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE

U.S. agents working terror cases face an agonizing dilemma — risk the case by nabbing a suspect too early, or risk public safety by not acting quick enough. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Canadian soldier charged

A Canadian soldier who was on leave from duty in Afghanistan has been charged with sexual assault in Australia. Sapper David Langlois-Fequet was arrested earlier this week in Byron Bay on Australia's east coast. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Commander confident abuse issue addressed

The presence of correctional services experts from Canada should go a long way to ensuring detainees handed over to Afghan authorities are treated humanely, says Canada's top commander in Kandahar.

In an interview, Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard also said that halts to detainee transfers this year were for "procedural" reasons, not because of issues of abuse.

"We have learned an awful lot from the past," he said.

"What I can guarantee you is that right now we have put in place everything in our power to ensure (humane treatment)."

"What I can guarantee you is that right now we have put in place everything in our power to ensure (humane treatment)." Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard

A political firestorm has been raging in Ottawa over revelations that Canadian diplomat Richard Colvin repeatedly warned the government that Afghan detainees were being horrifically abused after Canadian soldiers handed them over to local authorities.

The abuse issue has been swirling around Ottawa since 2007, when reports began to emerge of the possible torture of detainees handed over by Canadian troops.

The government moved to change its transfer agreement with Afghan authorities in 2007, but insisted all along it had not seen any credible evidence of torture in previous years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pedophile report to be released

An inquiry spurred by rumours of a pedophile ring and coverup conspiracy in eastern Ontario will release its final report tomorrow, after four years.

The release is the culmination of the Cornwall inquiry, which ended up with a $53-million price tag examining institutional responses to historical allegations of sex abuse.

The government estimates the final tab for the Ministry of the Attorney General will be $50 million, .

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MPs learn how not to tweet

TWITTER No tweets allowed about that bagel you had for breakfast.

Only a twit would have a staffer tweet in their place.

Those are among the dos and don'ts that parliamentarians are learning as communication firms leap into the growing business of social media training to help politicians negotiate the minefield of Facebook and Twitter.

Communications strategist Ken Chapman has a message for politicians who are too timid to tweet.

"You cannot ignore this and you cannot avoid it," he says, "I think Twitter is to 21st-century politics what television was to 20th-century politics."

Chapman's Edmonton-based company, Cambridge Strategies Inc., has refocused from traditional media training to online media training. He advises clients to forget the notion that online posts are frivolous.

He uses a formula to help politicians make the best use of social media. You should spend 50 per cent of your time listening to the conversation, 25 per cent responding to it and 25 per cent creating your own comments, he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

From call girl to columnist
The New York Post has hired Ashley Dupre, the former call girl whose tryst with former New York governor Eliot Spitzer led to his resignation last year, to write a weekly advice column dealing with sex and relationships. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Palace denies Queen passing off duties

Buckingham Palace has denied a newspaper report that the Queen is passing more of her duties to her grandson, Prince William. Royal spokesman Miguel Head said the report that William, left, is being groomed to be "shadow king," bypassing his father Prince Charles, is nonsense. The Mail yesterday said on its front page that the Queen is handing over a substantial part of her public duties to the prince to ease the 83-year-old monarch's workload. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds detained in Copenhagen

Police crack down on protesters as officials meet for private climate talks

Danish police outnumbered protesters yesterday, detaining more than 200 people on a second day of demonstrations as environment ministers met for informal talks to advance negotiations on a new pact.

Meanwhile, church bells in Denmark and other countries rang 350 times, a number that refers to what many scientists consider a safe level of carbon dioxide in the air.

Police stopped an unauthorized demonstration headed toward the city's harbour and carried out a security check of some of the participants, Copenhagen police spokesman Flemming Steen Munch told The Associated Press.

The hundreds of demonstrators were outnumbered by police officers in riot gear who surrounded them. Steen Munch said police found bolt-cutters and gas masks when they searched a truck that led the demonstration. At least 200 activists were detained, he said.

Go Green

A day earlier, police had detained nearly 1,000 activists at the tail end of a 40,000-strong march toward the suburban conference centre where the 192-nation UN climate conference is being held.

The detainees were from a range of European countries as well as the U.S, Kenya, Belarus, Japan, Mongolia, China and Turkey, police said.

Only 13 of them remained in custody yesterday. Of those, three — two Danes and a Frenchman — were set to be arraigned in court on preliminary charges of fighting with police.

ANTON UNGER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Danish police arrest demonstrators yesterday in Copenhagen.

Police said they detained the activists when some of them started breaking windows of buildings in downtown Copenhagen. A police officer received minor injuries when he was hit by a rock thrown from the group and one protester was injured by fireworks, Steen Munch said.

Critics blasted the Danish law that allows police to make preventative arrests if they believe a demonstration will turn violent and hold suspected troublemakers for up to 12 hours without a court arraignment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students say they were set up

IRAN Hundreds of students at Tehran University renewed anti-government protests for a second week yesterday, accusing authorities of fabricating images of demonstrators burning photos of the Islamic Republic's revered founder.

State television has repeatedly shown images, ostensibly taken during student-led protests on Dec. 7, of unidentified hands burning and tearing up pictures of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. It was a grave and illegal insult against the former leader, still widely respected in the country. The elite Revolutionary Guard, the country's most powerful military force, called for the trial and punishment of those responsible. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Supporters rally around Iranian student reportedly forced to wear women's clothing by authorities by posting hundreds of photos of men in women's garb. Scan this barcode for the full story.

News in brief

PHILIPPINES Scores of suspected Islamic militants burst through a concrete wall then barged into a jail in the volatile southern Philippines yesterday, freeing 31 inmates in a nighttime attack that sparked a gunbattle in which two people were killed. Vice Governor Al Rasheed Sakalahul of Basilan island said 70 heavily armed men cut through padlocks with boltcutters after using a sledgehammer to destroy the wall at the provincial jail in Isabela city to free several detained Muslim guerrillas. Other inmates also dashed to freedom, he said. The jail attack was the latest violence in the southern Mindanao region, scene of a decades-long Muslim separatist rebellion.

OREGON A cloud bank hugging the flanks of Mount Hood frustrated the air search for two missing climbers yesterday, a day after their companion was found dead on a glacier on Oregon's highest mountain. Rescuers had to bring in a helicopter and airplanes to conduct the search because new snow had created avalanche dangers for crews working on foot. The three climbers — 26-year-old Luke T. Gullberg, 24-year-old Anthony Vietti and 29-year-old Katie Nolan — had begun their ascent on the west side of the mountain Friday and were due back that afternoon, but failed to return. On Saturday, crews found Gullberg's body on the glacier at the 9,000-foot level. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$1.1-trillion spending bill goes to Obama

WASHINGTON The U.S. Senate yesterday passed a $1.1-trillion spending bill with increased budgets for vast areas of the federal government including health, education, law enforcement and veterans' programs.

The 1,000-page-plus package, one of the last essential chores of Congress this year, passed 57-35 and now goes to U.S. President Barack Obama for his signature.

After the vote, the Senate immediately returned to debate on health-care legislation that has consumed its time and energy for weeks. The spending bill combines six of the 12 annual appropriation bills for the 2010 budget year that began on Oct. 1. Obama has signed into law five others.

The final one, a $626-billion defence bill, will be used as the base bill for another catch-all package of measures that Congress must deal with in the coming days.

Wasteful?

- The Citizens Against Government Waste said projects included construction of a county farmer's market in Kentucky, renovation of a historic theatre in New York and restoration of a mill in Rhode Island.

Those include action to raise the $12.1-trillion debt ceiling and proposals to stimulate the job market.

The FBI gets $7.9 billion, a $680-million increase over 2009; the Veterans Health Administration budget goes to $45.1 billion from $41 billion; and the National Institutes of Health receives $31 billion, a $692-million increase.

Republicans decried what they called out-of control spending and pointed to an estimated $3.9 billion in the bill for more than 5,000 local projects sought by individual lawmakers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Houston elects openly gay mayor

HOUSTON The first openly gay person to be elected mayor of Houston says she hopes her victory in Saturday's election will change how the world views the Texas city.

Houston is the fourth-largest U.S. city and the biggest to elect an openly gay mayor.

Mayor-elect Annise Parker spoke yesterday at a press conference after defeating former city attorney Gene Locke with 53.6 per cent of the vote in the hotly contested runoff election. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Orangutans in danger

Asia's only ape — the orangutan — is in deep trouble. Climate change is adding to a range of pressures on its last remaining strongholds in the rainforests of Indonesia. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

A new threat

The biggest threat to African elephants is no longer poachers but climate change. Longer dry seasons mean the elephants have to move further to find food and water — and that brings them into conflict with humans trying to protect their crops. WWF

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

The burden of Alberta's oilsands

Canadian politicians pushing for U.S. to shoulder costs of carbon emissions

Environment Minister Jim Prentice appears to be in agreement with former Liberal prime minister Paul Martin on who should pay for the environmental costs of Alberta's oilsands energy.

Martin has been quoted as saying the U.S. should shoulder some of Canada's carbon emissions burden because it's the chief user of energy from the oilsands.

Prentice, who is at the Copenhagen climate summit, says if Americans buy Canadian oil, the environmental costs should be absorbed on the U.S. side of the border.

Prentice told CTV News that's why the government is working so closely with the U.S. to make sure we have a harmonized system and a continental approach to reducing emissions.

The environment minister says whether it is regulations, or a cap-and-trade system, it must be integrated or we will end up losing jobs in Canada and undertaking costs that are not our responsibility.

Martin, who served several years as finance minister, said he fully supports oilsands development.

But he also said development should proceed at a "rational pace," and the resulting environmental burden should be shared by the U.S.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a bill that contemplates border tariffs on so-called "dirty oil," such as that from Alberta's oilsands.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A tailings pond reflects the Syncrude oilsands mine facility near Fort McMurray, Alta.

1,000

Denmark police reported they had arrested more than 1,000 demonstrators following weekend long protests at the climate summit in Copenhagen. Protest organizers estimated 100,000 people had joined the march from downtown Copenhagen.

News in brief

FLYING Cancel that flight. One round-trip flight across the country creates two to three tonnes of CO_2 emissions per passenger. In those 10 hours, you will cancel out the effect of every single energy-saving device you've installed in your home. In fact, that round trip has spewed out more emissions than the average Toronto home's electricity use for an entire year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Province needs to get creative on salmon

Eco-**Minded**

Closed loop systems

Your fish don't need passports

- In closed loop systems, waste equals food. Anaerobic digesters (microscopic organisms that live without oxygen) can convert salmon feces into fertilizers that can be used to grow vegetables.
- Your fish shouldn't need a passport. Eat locally-raised salmon from closed-containment aquaculture or eat wild Pacific salmon.

Sometimes cleaner greener industries need to be fertilized. Closed-containment salmon aquaculture could create jobs and avoid harm to marine ecosystems associated with salmon farmed in the ocean — with a little help from you.

Closed aquaculture systems — including tanks on land — could help bring wild sockeye salmon back to B.C.

Farming predators like salmon is inefficient — it means catching wild fish for farm-feed.

However, the aquaculture industry has developed a mostly vegetarian fish feed that uses much less fishmeal. Now significantly fewer wild fish are needed to produce the same quantity of farmed salmon.

Informed consumers (like you) could make closed-containment salmon aquaculture a reality by paying moderately higher prices.

In exchange, you get a guilt-free pass to delicious health-promoting salmon that doesn't contribute to the decline of wild salmon stocks.

It is still cheaper to grow fish in open pens in the ocean where fish farms benefit from ocean-provided subsidies: Tides clean out fish feces.

Fish farms aren't currently held accountable for ecological degradation when the poop overwhelms the ocean's capacity to assimilate waste, when sea lice outbreaks spread from farms to wild salmon, or when farm-based antibiotics and vaccines harm wild fish.

Who pays then?

Fishermen and anyone who enjoys wild salmon.

Open-pen salmon farms might seem cheap to industry, but they're costly to many of the rest of us.

It's time for the provincial government to think creatively.

Fish on land?

Why not?

Getting Atlantic salmon out of the Pacific Ocean could help restore wild B.C. salmon.

Kai Chan is an assistant professor and Canada Research Chair at the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (IRES) at UBC; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

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Comment

Sounding the alarm

Cops say vehicle thefts and break-ins are on the rebound

Just when you thought it was safe to park your car outside again, vehicle thefts and break-ins in Metro Vancouver are on the rebound. It seems that criminals with a penchant for hot-wiring, hunting for loose change, or dismantling car stereos were just biding their time in recent years.

The bait cars and stepped-up enforcement may have scared them off temporarily, but now they are back. I've learned the hard way.

My own vehicle was a target recently, and now sports screwdriver marks around the door lock — an obvious but unsuccessful attempt at lock pinching. In addition, someone has been trying to pry the door open — leaving more unsightly scratches and scrapes.

Apparently, I'm not alone.

Two weeks ago, the North Vancouver RCMP reported that Lower Lonsdale was under siege from a suspect stealing valuables from parked cars. They reminded drivers about the importance of removing any and all belongings from vehicles. According to the detachment, "It is crucial to take out iPods, global positioning system (GPS), any sums of money and, during the holiday season, Christmas gifts."

How's that for a yuletide warning?

"The bait cars and stepped-up enforcement may have scared them off temporarily, but now they are back."

Meanwhile, the Vancouver Police Department has launched its "bait gift" program, intended to catch criminals who can't help themselves when they see Christmas presents in parked cars.

I'm getting into the holiday spirit, too. I've gifted my own van with a stocking stuffer in the form of a steering wheel lock. I've also installed an immobilizer — to keep the festive joyriders at bay — and an annoying alarm that beeps, chirps and howls at would-be smash-and-grabbers.

I can only hope that Santa gives me some extra cash this year to pay for all this deterrence.

*****

My recent column devoted to excessive heat on some city buses garnered strong opinions from transit customers, including Rosemary Delnavine, who commutes daily between White Rock and B.C. Children's Hospital.

Delnavine has had enough of what she calls "mobile greenhouses," and hasn't been afraid to say so. Unfortunately, her written complaints to TransLink have garnered little in the way of productive feedback. She's been told that TransLink takes its cues on this issue from the health authorities.

But while sweltering buses are a health concern — especially in the context of spreading H1N1 — this is also about passenger comfort. To that end, there's no reason why TransLink can't address this issue on its own.

Derek Moscato is a writer with a focus on urban issues, transportation, architecture and economics; dmoscato@yahoo.com.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Read Anne Hines' Hinesight at metronews.ca/hinesight

We Know What You're Thinking

83% The percentage of Canadians who have turned down the heat during the winter in the last two years to help reduce greenhouse gases.

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Strike hits five-month mark

The strike at Vale Inco in Sudbury has hit the five-month mark. More than 3,000 miners, members of United Steelworkers Local 6500, walked off the job back on July 13. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	GAS	OIL	TSX
US 94.35¢	US $5.25	US $69.87	11,423.93
US .85¢	US 4.7¢	US 67¢	40.64

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Wind of change for cell industry

The federal cabinet on Friday overturned a CRTC ruling preventing Globalive Communications Corp. from launching Wind Mobile as Canada's fourth national wireless carrier — a decision with significant ramifications for both Canadian consumers and the country's strictly regulated industry.

Much in the industry will now change: from the crucial minutiae of cellphone bills, to the shape and structure of the $16 billion sector that touches millions of Canadian lives, industry analysts say.

The quashing of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission decision from October, which determined Globalive was a foreign-controlled company and ineligible to launch, means big changes in the Canadian telecom sector, starting as early as next week — the earliest Globalive said it could launch in the Toronto and Calgary markets. For consumers, the decision is a clear win.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE
Nevada health board decision improves brothel's chances for offering state's first male prostitutes. Scan this barcode for the full story.

GM in talks to sell old Saab technology

AUTOMOTIVE General Motors Co. is in talks to sell parts of Saab Automobile's old technology to a Chinese company and the entire brand to another buyer, a person familiar with the negotiations said yesterday.

The person said GM plans to sell the technology behind the Saab models 93 and 95 to Beijing Automotive Industry Holdings. The person spoke on condition of anonymity.

The person said the sale of the old technology to will help GM financially but won't stand in the way of a deal to sell the entire Saab brand and its current production to another buyer. Negotiations for such a deal are also taking place, the source said, but declined to say with whom.

General Motors earlier this month said it will phase out the Saab brand if it doesn't find a buyer for the brand before the end of December. About 4,500 jobs at Saab are at stake.

However, GM said new potential buyers had emerged after Sweden's Koenigsegg Automotive AB dropped out of a deal to buy the company in November. THE ASSOCIATED PRES

THOMAS KIENZLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this file photo the logo of Saab is seen in front of a car dealer in Stuttgart, Germany. A person familiar with the negotiations said yesterday that General Motors Corp. is in talks to sell parts of Saab Automobile's technology to Beijing Automotive Industry Holdings and the rest of the company to a second buyer.

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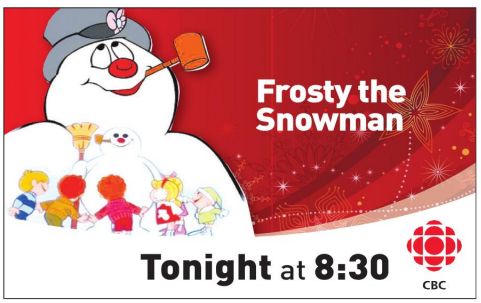

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In brief

INDIA Volkswagen AG started production of its first compact car in India on Saturday, hoping to capture up to 10 per cent of the country's fast-growing automobile market within the next six years, the company said. The Polo, a compact hatchback, rolled off the lines at Volkswagen's factory in Pune, an auto hub a few hours outside Mumbai, shortly before noon.

OIL PRODUCTION Kuwait's oil minister says OPEC probably won't change its production levels when it meets next week. Sheik Ahmed al-Abdullah al-Sabah made the comments to state news agency KUNA yesterday. The agency quoted him as saying "it was unlikely the bloc would change output strategy" when it meets in Angola on December 22.

AIR TRAVEL The U.S. and Japan reached a landmark agreement Friday to relax limits on flights between the two countries, opening up the possibility of broader cross-border airline alliances and more options for air travellers. Under the agreement, which still must be finalized by both governments, airlines from both countries would be allowed to select routes and destinations based on consumer demand for both passenger and cargo services without limitations on the number of U.S. or Japanese carriers that can fly between the two countries or the number of flights they can operate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Investigating match fixing
Following allegations that a game involving Canada may have been part of a match-fixing scheme, Canadian soccer officials should do their due diligence in investigating the matter, writes Ben Rycroft at **metronews.ca/sports**

Sports

Nesbitt strikes gold

Christine Nesbitt raced to victory in the 1,000 metres yesterday on a golden weekend for the long-track speedskater, while the women's pursuit team added a silver and the men's team earned bronze. Nesbitt, from London, Ont., won in a time of one minute 13.36 seconds to claim her second World Cup victory in as many days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Woods loses big sponsor

Accenture ends six-year relationship with golfer following scandal

Global consulting firm Accenture Ltd. has ended its relationship with Tiger Woods, marking the first major sponsor to cut ties altogether with the golfer since his alleged infidelities surfaced and he announced an indefinite leave from the sport to work on his marriage.

In its first statement since the Woods' scandal erupted, Accenture said yesterday the golfer is "no longer the right representative" after the "circumstances of the last two weeks."

"... the company has determined that he is no longer the right representative for its advertising."
Accenture's statement on Tiger Woods

The move ends a six-year relationship during which the firm credited its "Go on, be a Tiger" campaign with boosting its image significantly. Accenture has used Woods to personify its claimed attributes of integrity and high performance.

"After careful consideration and analysis, the company has determined that he is no longer the right representative for its advertising," Accenture said, adding that "it wishes only the best for Tiger Woods and his family."

The firm plans to immediately transition to a new advertising campaign, with a major effort scheduled to launch later in 2010. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Martin dominates Howard to gain Olympic curling berth

CURLING Olympic silver medallist Kevin Martin will get his opportunity to go for gold at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

The Edmonton skip lived up to his top billing yesterday beating long-time rival Glenn Howard 7-3 in the final of the Canadian Olympic curling trials.

"The guys played an awesome game today. They really set it up well for us. What a great day," a jubilant Martin said moments after the game.

"We put a lot of pressure on them early in the game."

Martin, who started the game with hammer, took control early and was leading 5-1 after five ends.

The 43-year-old Martin last represented Canada at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake, where he earned a silver medal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Sports in brief

SOCCER Arsenal scored twice in the second half yesterday to win 2-1 at Liverpool and keep the pressure on Chelsea and Manchester United at the top of the Premier League. The win lifted Arsenal to 31 points, three fewer than defending champion United and six fewer than leader Chelsea.

TENNIS Ottawa's Gabriela Dabrowski became the first Canadian to win the Orange Bowl tennis tournament in 27 years yesterday, knocking off top-seeded Kristina Mladenovic of France 6-3, 2-6, 7-5. The unseeded Dabrowski is the first Canadian to capture the 18-and-under title since Carling Bassett did it in 1982. METRO NEWS SERVICES

NFL Talk about a high-scoring affair

NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Donovan McNabb of the Philadelphia Eagles drops back against the New York Giants at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., last night. Philadelphia beat New York 45-38.

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Olds College opens Canadian Equine Centre for Innovation

Last week, Alberta's Olds College celebrated the grand opening of the Canadian Equine Centre for Innovation. The centre will incorporate leading-edge expertise, facilities, technology, and applied research to provide unique human resource solutions for the $15.7-billion equine industry. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Grad tax credit coming?

In a new report on pre-budget consultations, the federal Standing Committee on Finance recommends Ottawa create a refundable tax credit for new graduates, and make the credit available to those who move to designated regions and work in their field of study.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Workology in **brief**

BCIT FACES CUTS: British Columbia Institute of Technology president Don Wright has announced that 82 full-time positions at the school will be eliminated, and the cuts will include management, teaching, and support staff positions.

PFIZER CONTROVERSY: Many prominent ethicists and researchers have signed a petition protesting the appointment of Dr. Bernard Prigent, vice-president and medical director of Pfizer Canada, to the governing council of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

ST. CLAIR COLLEGE GETS $1 LEASE FOR J-SCHOOL BUILDING: Under a deal announced last week, St. Clair College's journalism school will set up shop in downtown Windsor at the former Salvation Army building and pay the city $1 a year for the facility. The only condition is that the college must hold the property for 15 years. With the property, St. Clair hopes to double its current journalism enrolment and create programming for up to 200 students

FNUC VP FRAUD TRIAL SET: Wes Stevenson, formerly employed as the First Nations University of Canada's vice-president of finance, will be going to trial for fraud, following the completion of a preliminary hearing this week.

UCAN APPOINTS PRESIDENT: University of Canada West announced last week that Dr. Verna Magee-Shepherd has been named acting president of the institution, and will assume her responsibilities at once. A graduate of the Universities of British Columbia and Calgary, Magee-Shepherd has held several teaching and administrative positions in the PSE sector, including acting president of the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rule No. 1: Don't worry

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Ah, the office holiday party — eagerly awaited for months, just as eagerly wished away from memory by unfortunate souls. Everyone has "that" office party story where someone crossed the line or did something incredibly stupid and sometimes the anxiety related to the party itself can be just as personally traumatizing.

Given that it all takes place among people you share your work with or owe your job too, the fun of the office holiday party can quickly turn to fear and regret.

Martin M. Anthony, professor of psychology at Ryerson University and author of the Shyness and Social Anxiety Workbook, says some anxiety is natural but often people imagine a much worse outcome than what is likely to happen.

When it comes to things like letting an inappropriate joke slip through, spilling your drink or mispronouncing someone's name, Anthony says it's important not to sweat the small stuff because, for the most part, other people won't either.

"A lot of times when we make these minor gaffes, we are the often the person most concerned about it. Many times it doesn't matter that much to others," Anthony said.

If you truly want to avoid those legendary water-cooler disaster moments, Anthony can't stress enough that limiting your alcohol consumption is crucial.

If you don't want to embarrass yourself at your holiday party this year, limiting your alcohol consumption is crucial.

"When people are anxious they often drink more at parties, which can make you more uninhibited. Alcohol actually has the same physical effect on the brain as many anti-anxiety medications, but some anxiety is good because you need to monitor your behaviour to not offend people," Anthony said.

For people who are shy or feel uncomfortable making small talk, the holiday office party can seem downright stressful but Anthony suggests it represents an obstacle that is worth overcoming. Trying to avoid making small-talk because you're afraid of making a faux pas just compounds the fear and potentially closes doors on relationships with people that could have been beneficial.

"Avoidance maintains the fear, it keeps it alive, because you never deal with it. You have to force yourself to deal with it. It's true people are evaluated when they make small talk but they're also evaluated when they avoid making small talk," Anthony said.

If you're new in the office and worried about not having enough to say, plan out a few talking points in advance and don't set yourself up mentally to fail.

"Think in advance of the kinds of things you want to talk about and challenge your own anxious thoughts," Anthony said.

Don't expect to be a perfect social butterfly at all times and don't worry about pauses and silent moments in a conversation — they are natural.

"A lot of people who are nervous about making small-talk are particularly worried about those little silences that happen during small talk. Silence doesn't instantly mean you're boring — all conversations eventually settle, so don't be afraid of it," Anthony said.

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N.B. universities need international-recruitment strategy
Last week, Mount Allison president Robert Campbell described New Brunswick's universities as a economic sector that could brighten the province's bleak demographic picture. METRO NEWS SERVICES

What a cheesy job

OddJobs

Scott McKenzie wishes he could say the dairy farm in the tiny Nova Scotia town he grew up in had a big influence on him. But his family ate cheese from the grocery store.

And McKenzie, now 41, had a bigger taste for the theatre at the time. He studied drama and education at Concordia University in Montreal, and eventually moved to Toronto where he acted, directed, wrote and danced.

But 15 years ago, he decided to change careers. "I've always said theatre is something you do because you can't not do it." He took a job as a waiter while he though it out.

He dabbled in other careers, taking up massage therapy at one point. But then he realized he was meant to work with food and drink. "This is the stuff I love, so I should be doing it all the time."

By the time he was working a manager in the high-end Auberge du Pommier, he decided he needed a specialized skill to go farther in the industry.

Everyone he knew was getting into wine. But seven years ago, he read The Cheese Plate by Max McCalman. "That's what I want to do," he thought.

So he enrolled in the first ever courses offered by the Cheese Education Guild. After graduating — and now able to call himself a fromager — McKenzie immediately found himself in demand.

Whenever he wasn't at his manager job, he was doing freelance work at other restaurants, doing talks at wineries, running seminars and creating cheese courses for weddings.

Three years ago, he left the restaurant and went freelance. Around the same time, he got a part-time job at George Brown College, coaching students in the school's restaurant.

To keep up on the latest in his industry: "I eat cheese from morning 'til night." Breakfast is a hunk of Saint Marcellin, a Swiss cheese rich in omega 3 fatty acids. Whenever he can, he stops by Toronto's St. Lawrence Market or a cheese shop for an array of cheeses: He'll set up as many as 20 on a board and do a tasting for himself.

You'd think that'd mess with his health but McKenzie is trim and has low cholesterol levels. He credits cheese's enzymes that some say help your body break down fat.

Health benefits aside, more people are getting into gourmet cheese. "I think cheese in Canada is where wine was 20 years ago, I think it's going to go through the same crazy surge the wine industry experienced."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Fromager
Salary: Depends on what you're doing, and how much you do it
Education/training: Courses through organizations like the Cheese Education Guild; the new Professional Fromager Certificate McKenzie is launching at George Brown College; tasting and reading on your own
Best Part of the Job: "People are so interested, they're so excited to find out more about cheese."
Worst Part of the Job: "Inconsistency. I can't ever say no to anything, there's no regularity to it."

Scott Mckenzie started in theatre, but his true love was cheese.

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Bachelor reject Rycroft ties knot

Nearly a year after being rejected on national television by Jason Mesnick, former Bachelor contestant Melissa Rycroft is finally a married woman. Rycroft swapped vows with her fiancé of six months on Saturday in Mexico. **USMAGAZINE.COM**

Entertainment

No more Vuitton

Madonna has been dropped as the face of luxury brand Louis Vuitton. The singer was signed to appear in a string of ads for the fashion house's 2009 campaign. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Here comes Oscar bait

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News

As the year comes to an end, theatres are seeing a breed of movies that are different than your average popcorn flick. They are very serious but inspiring; they are packed with big names and an anointed new star for good measure; they take a well-calculated risk or two. They are, in short, shameless Oscar baits, and studios are throwing them at the screen in order to qualify for the 2010 Academy Awards.

We've broken down some of the more conspicuous ones that are currently playing in theatres or are on the cusp of release, but we're not making any predictions.

INVICTUS
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: Based on a true story in which Nelson Mandela teams up with captain of South Africa's rugby team to bring together the country post-Apartheid.
Star power: It's megawatt here: Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon star; Clint Eastwood directs.

PRECIOUS
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: Pregnant for the second time by her father, an obese, illiterate, abused teen learns to read in an attempt to improve her life.
Star power: The buzz is surrounding newcomer Gabourey Sidibe, but Mo'Nique, Mariah Carey and Lenny Kravitz are also on the bill.

The Lovely Bones, left, and Nine are among a slew of current and upcoming films gunning for Oscar attention.

NINE
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: An Italian director deals with his mid-life crisis by getting tangled up with a number of women, all the while singing and dancing — it's based on the 1982 musical.
Star power: It's impossible to assemble more A-list, leading ladies: Judi Dench, Nicole Kidman, Marion Cotillard, Penelope Cruz, and Sophia Loren.
Wild card: In addition to that A-list cast, Fergie and Kate Hudson are on board as, respectively, a prostitute and a fashion reporter.

THE LOVELY BONES
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: After her rape and murder, a young girl watches over her family and killer from heaven, hoping that someone will find her body and working through her own grief.
Star power: Alice Sebold wrote the bestselling book; Peter Jackson is directing; and Mark Wahlberg and Rachel Weisz star.
Wild card: While the novel is haunting and elegant, Peter Jackson likes to blow things up. And then blow them up again.

AVATAR
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: A paralyzed ex-Marine agrees to travel to a distant planet — which happens to be a computer-generated, 3-D world — for the chance to walk again via an avatar body. And, naturally, exploit their resources.
Star power:: The cast includes Sam Worthington and Sigourney Weaver, but everyone's watching director James Cameron, who hasn't done a feature film since 1997's Titanic.
Wild card: There's rumoured to be an almost $500 million US price tag on this years-in-the-making project, and it kind of looks like fanboy porn.

Chef Gordon Ramsay shows television critics how to make Baked Alaska at a press tour in Pasadena, Calif., in August.

Ramsay gets cooking with viewers

TELEVISION For years, viewers have watched Chef Gordon Ramsay reduce aspiring and even seasoned chefs to sliced and diced vegetables on shows like Hell's Kitchen and Kitchen Nightmares. So the prospect of cooking alongside him in a public forum is enough to make even the most hardened critic turn into a beaten egg white.

That was the challenge last summer as critics from across North America were invited to prepare a dish with the hot-headed TV chef. Now viewers will get the same opportunity when Gordon Ramsay: Cookalong Live premieres tomorrow on Global and Fox (repeating the next night on the Food Network).

"The biggest complaint I've had from, not just family, but from viewers, customers that are in the restaurant, is that 'We don't see you cook enough.'"
Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay

The Scottish-born chef and restauranteur stood before critics last summer at the annual press tour in Los Angeles and barked orders while dozens of scribes attempted to whisk egg whites into something resembling a peak.

"(Have you) never made a Baked Alaska before?" Ramsay shouted from the stage where he stood with whisk and bowl.

"Where the hell did you get that shirt from?" he asked one critic dressed for the beach. "If your cooking is as bad as your dress sense" he continued, dropping one of his usually bleeped F-bombs.

Still, this wasn't the rude Ramsay one is used to seeing on television. He was here on this day to promote his show. He promised he'd be on his best behaviour on Cookalong Live, too, as he helps homemakers try to prepare a pretty complicated meal in real time as they watch the hour-long special next Tuesday night.

He was looking forward to the challenge because, for one thing, he says he never really gets to cook properly on his other shows. "The biggest complaint I've had from, not just family, but from viewers, customers that are in the restaurant, is that 'We don't see you cook enough," he says.

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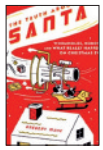
Legacy of the Special Olympics



Make No Small **Plans**

Author: Jim Jordan
Publisher: Chill Media Inc.
Price: $29.99 (Hardcover)

FORTY YEARS AGO, Toronto athlete and sportscaster Harry (Red) Foster brought the very first Special Olympics to Canada. Make No Small Plans commemorates his vision, a legacy that has grown into a cross-country opportunity for the intellectually disabled to hone physical skills and that has spawned more than 150 international chapters. Wayne Gretzky opens the book, which contains hundreds of photographs, original documents and detailed historical accounts. Tracing the nonprofit's Canadian origins, it delves into the birth of provincial chapters and transition points that leveraged it to national revere.

The Truth About **Santa**

Author: Gregory Mone
Publisher: Bloomsbury
Price: $21 (Hardcover)

YOU BETTER WATCH out. You better not cry. You better not pout. I'm telling you why: Santa Claus has embedded listening devices in your Christmas tree ornaments, he's been reading your e-mails and listening to your phone conversations. These are just some of Santa's strategies, that writer Gregory Mone explains in his hilarious, science-rooted book The Truth About Santa. The guide describes how elf cloning, on-demand organ printing, memory-erasing milk and wakefulness drugs, among an extensive list of artificial means, allow Santa to visit every house on Christmas Eve and how he's survived so long.

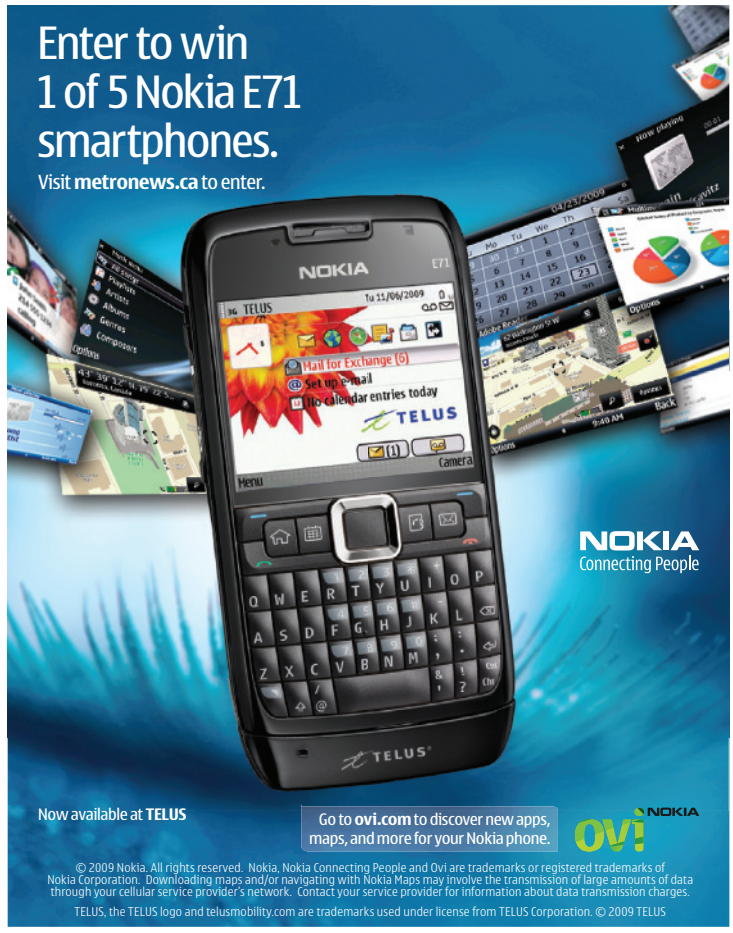
Yours **Ever**

Author: Thomas Mallon
Publisher: Pantheon
Price: $33 (Hardcover)

IN HIS 1984 examination A Book of One's Own, American author Thomas Mallon tackled the diary, exploring the literary form's prevalence and relevance to different kinds of writers. Now, in Yours Ever, Mallon shifts his magnifying glass to a dying literary art — letters. Divided into nine categories — absence, friendship, advice, complaint, love, spirit, confession, war and prison — the book surveys all kinds of written exchange, from love letters to suicide notes. Florence Nightingale, Winston Churchill and wife Clementine, and English author E.M. Forster are among those whose letters Mallon mines in this thorough, explorative collection.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada

BookPicks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1. **The Princess and the Frog:** $25 million US
2. **The Blind Side:** $15 million
3. **Invictus:** $9 million
4. **The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** $8 million
5. **A Christmas Carol:** $6.9 million
6. **Brothers:** $5 million
7. **Old Dogs:** $4.4 million
8. **2012:** $4.4 million
9. **Armored:** $3.5 million
10. **Ninja Assassin:** $2.7 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's**Style**

Kenya Hunt

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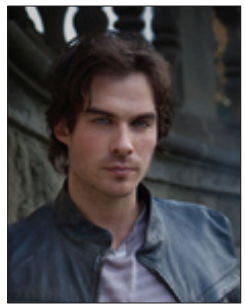
VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/14/09	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Grinch	Frosty	Mr. Bean	Stuart McLean	CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	Shrek 2 ★★★ (2004, Comedy) Voices of Mike Myers. (CC)				CSI: Miami (N) (CC)		CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	Daily Weekend Edition (CC)		Poltergeist: The Legacy		P3	Ek Noor	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House Cuddy receives gift.		(:01) Lie to Me "Tractor Man"		NCIS: Los Angeles (N) (CC)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N) (CC)	The Beatles on Record (CC)		Two/Half Men	Big Bang	Stargate Atlantis		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	How I Met	Accidentally	Trauma "Stuck" (CC)		The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	The Vampire Diaries "Pilot"		The Vampire Diaries (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang	CSI: Miami (N) (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	The Sing-Off "Pilot" Eight a cappella groups compete. (CC)				The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	The Man Who Saved Christmas (2002) Jason Alexander.				All She Wants for Christmas (2006, Drama) Monica Keena.				Maxed Out
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Jennifer Hudson-Christmas		Find My Family (N) (CC)		Castle "Famous Last Words"		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	The Indian in the Cupboard ★★ (1995) Hal Scardino.				Seinfeld	King	Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Conver-KCTS	Antiques	Antiques Roadshow (CC)		Anatomy of a Pandemic (N)		Secrets of the Dead (CC)		Rock and Roll
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House Cuddy receives gift.		(:01) Lie to Me "Tractor Man"		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	45 PBS	Dr. Wayne Dyer: Excuses		Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The 60s (CC)				Play Piano in a Flash (CC)		
	296	654	34 SBK	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier (CC)	'70s Show	South Park	Half & Half	Colon Detox	Hatchett	Party Food
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	The Vampire Diaries "Pilot"		The Vampire Diaries (CC)		KTLA Prime News (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury (CC)	
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show W/Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	26 NW	Can Obama Save the Planet?		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Can Obama Save the Planet?		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	NHL Hockey Los Angeles Kings at Vancouver Canucks. (Subject to Blackout)					Sportsnet	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NFL Football: Cardinals at 49ers			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Timbersports	Canadian Dog Show		SportsCentre
	411	457	29 OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	24 SCR	(6:15) WWE Monday Night RAW (CC)				(:15) WWE Monday Night RAW With Michael Cole and Jerry Lawler. (CC)				
	417	406	25 SC	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Auctions
	416	409	114 GLF	(6:00) Fútbol Brasileño		Off the Pitch	Gol TV News	Off the Pitch	Game Cap	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	45 YTV	A Flintstone Christmas (CC)		Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	8 Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Babar (CC)	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Recreat. Eden	Landscape	Monarchy (CC)		Martha Graham: Dancer		Capturing a Short Life (CC)		Battlefield
	575	583	60 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Due South "Vault" (CC)		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Imp.
	570	580	62 MM	So You Think You Can Dance		50 Moments	50 Moments	50 Moments	50 Moments	50 Moments	Video on Trial	MuchVibe
	600	564	63 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		House Poor	Income Prop.	For Rent	My First Place	House
	615	520	61 A&E	Hoarders "Chris and Dale" (N)		Jacksons: A Family Dynasty		(:01) Intervention "Nikki"		(:01) Intervention "Jennifer"		(:01) Hoarders
	628	584	62 SPKE	(6:30) The Ultimate Fighter (Live)					Real Vice	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Trek: Voyager
	521	560	64 TLC	BBQ Pitmasters (CC)		Little People	Little People	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	BBQ Pitmasters (CC)		Little People
	616	522	69 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		The Christmas Choir (2008, Drama) Jason Gedrick. (CC)				Bones (CC)		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	70 BVO	Johnny Cash Christmas		Law & Order (CC)		Without a Trace "Driven"		Wit ★★★ (2001) Emma Thompson. (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Plastic Makes	Plastic-Perfect	ET Canada	Whatever	Work Out (CC)		Brat Camp (CC)		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Canada's Worst Driver (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters (CC)		Canada's Worst Driver		Dirty Jobs
	522	506	44 HIS	Convoy: War of the Atlantic		Patton 360 (CC)		Battles BC (CC)		Seven Signs of the Apocalypse (CC)		
	627	528	45 SPC	(6:00) Manticore ★ (2005)		Sanctuary	Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)	
	294	650	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Lopez Tonight (N)		Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits (CC)		ET Canada	Comeback	Family Guy	Raymond	Raymond
	603	561	52 FN	At the Table	At the Table	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Top Chef: Las Vegas (CC)		Food Jammer
	-	-	58 AMC	(:15) Playing for Keeps ★ (1986) Danny Jordano, Matthew Penn. (CC)					National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation ★★ (1989, Comedy)			
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Merry F... Christmas		Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:25) The 11th Hour ★★★		Dexter "The Getaway"		Californication	Lock 'n Load	Pineapple Express ★★ (2008) Seth Rogen.		
	581	566	191 MTV	Peak Season	After	MTV Live	Sex News	Real World-Road Rules		Peak Season	After	MTV Live
	261	394	192 V	(6:00) Secret Santa ★★		Waiting for God (CC)		Secret Santa ★★ (2003) Jennie Garth, Steve Eckholdt.				Bless-Father
	-	-	193 MUL	Sewing Maid	Boys Over Flo	State Secret		To Be Announced		Pinoy: That's Entertainment		Patrol World

critics'corner

The Vampire Diaries

The CW kicks off a weeklong nightly marathon of its biggest new hit, a romantic thriller based on books L.J. Smith wrote in the early 1990s. In the series pilot, Elena (Nina Dobrev) is drawn to Stefan (Paul Wesley), a handsome and mysterious new student. Shortly after Vicki (Kayla Ewell), the troubled sister of Elena's former boyfriend, is attacked at a party, Stefan learns that his evil older brother, Damon (Ian Somerhalder), has returned. 5 PM on WGN WPX MM, 8 PM on TLA CW



Jennifer Hudson: I'll Be Home for Christmas

In this one-hour special, the Academy Award-winning singer and actress ("Dreamgirls") travels to Chicago to relive childhood Christmases by performing at her small neighborhood church, the music academy where she studied and other Windy City locations. Hudson also visits with family members, childhood friends and others who influenced her and started her on the road to stardom. 8 PM on ABC

Sims spills the beans and Eckhart splits

Aaron Eckhart reportedly ended his month-long relationship with Molly Sims because she confirmed to the press that they were dating, according to Star magazine. "He's an incredibly private guy," a source says. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

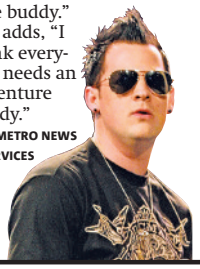
Good Charlotte's good time buddy

JUST FRIENDS While some reports are calling Benji Madden Holly Madison's boyfriend, the former Girls Next Door star is labeling him her "adventure buddy," people.com reports.

"I don't want to talk about him, except that I like him," Madison said when asked about reports linking her to the Good Charlotte guitarist.

The possible coupling comes after the duo were spotted in Los Angeles at a coffee shop. The two have also flirted over Twitter, with Madden even hyping Madison's E! show with Tweets.

The blonde bombshell wouldn't say whether she and Madden are an item, calling him simply her "mysterious adventure buddy." She adds, "I think everyone needs an adventure buddy."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hudson spreading her Christmas cheer

SCROOGES BEWARE! Jennifer Hudson is on a mission to convert you, people.com reports.

"It hurts me so when I see people like, 'Whatever, Christmas is just another day,'" the self-proclaimed "holiday fanatic" told People. "I'm that person who's going to go over there and get you into the holiday spirit. And that's how I've always been."

With that kind of attitude, it's no surprise the Academy Award winner plans to help audiences across the country get into the spirit tonight with her first televised holiday special.

Jennifer Hudson: I'll be Home for Christmas features musical performances shot on location in Hudson's native Chicago (the local church where she got her start singing in the choir and the music academy where she studied, among other places). Hudson will also introduce audiences to her family, former teachers and childhood friends.

"The first thing you do for the holidays is go back home, so I went back home, and the next thing you do is spend it with all of your family and your friends in those familiar places. "That's why I chose to go back home and share it and make it personal," Hudson said.

As excited as Hudson is to share this Christmas with her fans, there's one person she simply can't wait to spend it with — her four-month-old son David Daniel Otunga Jr.

"I need to make it great for him," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday house hunting

PLAYING HOUSE Though they continue to dodge questions about their relationship, Bradley Cooper and Renee Zellweger appear to be ready to take things to the next level.

Sources say the pair were out looking at homes for sale in Los Angeles, according to Page Six.

"Until Renee, Bradley had a reputation as a ladies' man and a heartbreaker," a source says. "But he seems so happy with her.

"They prefer to stay in rather than hang out at show business parties, and he has already introduced her to his parents."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Werewolf whops rapper on live TV

BELLA, I MEAN, TAYLOR, I'LL PROTECT YOU Just weeks after Taylor Swift's appearance on Saturday Night Live, Taylor Lautner took centre stage to host the late-night sketch show, people.com reports.

In his opening monologue, he defended Swift's honour by beheading a Kanye West mannequin with some impressive martial arts kicks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Winehouse's dad slights ex-son

A REAL CLASS ACT Amy Winehouse's dad, Mitch Winehouse, claims her ex Blake Fielder-Civil made more than US$8,000 for tipping off the paps about their meet-up last week.

Mitch called Blake "a liar, violent criminal and betrayer "on his Twitter account.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Spencer Pratt outsources his gift-giving decisions, and Lindsay Lohan agitates her employees.

• @spencerpratt What are some gift suggestions for the best wife in the world? I know I have the smartest twitter fam so u guys will def help

• @lindsaylohan Having a heated debate w/ my security guard about politics&I'm seconds from leaving my table! Never debate over dinner!! You'll leave hungry

METRO WORLD NEWS

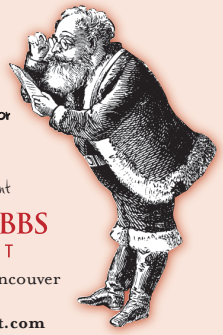
Rihanna won't shut Brown out

FORGIVENESS IS THE SWEETEST REVENGE Rihanna admits that she feels "embarrassed" by her past relationship with Chris Brown, but she doesn't think she'll never speak to him again. "I think it's possible to change," the singer tells Glamour magazine.

METRO WORLD NEWS

For Everyone on Your Holiday List.
A Christmas Wonderland of Ideas.

For Mom
Orchids
For Jonathan's Teacher
Christmas Planter
For Susan's Ballet Instructor
Poinsettia
For Rob's Parents
Fresh Holiday Arrangement



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metro

YOU COULD WIN
AN ADVANCE SCREENING FOR TWO TO SEE DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?

IN THEATRES DECEMBER 18
ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!
metronews.ca
No purchase necessary. Enter daily for more chances to win. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes December 14, 2009 at 11:59pm. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.
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Tuesday 90% Rain 7° / 5°
Wednesday 90% Rain 9°/ 7°
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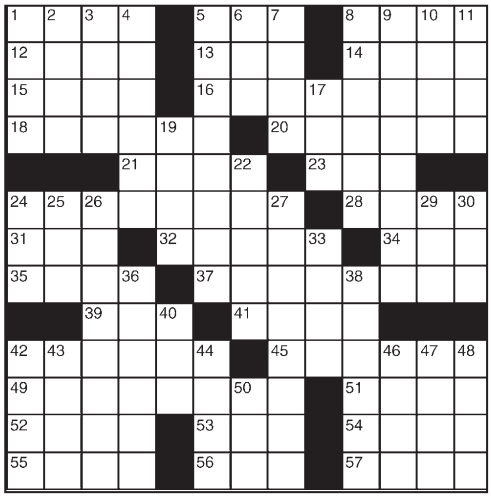
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		3				8		
		6	9		4	7		
9				2				1
	8	9	6		2	1	7	
	7	2	5		1	3	4	
8				7				2
		7	3		9	5		
		1				6		

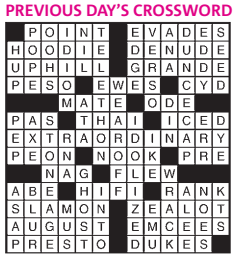
ACROSS

1 One of the Three B's
5 Express
8 Pond gunk
12 Franc replacement
13 Rhyming tribute
14 Poi base
15 Cupid's alias
16 Kale cousin
18 "The O'Reilly —"
20 Penetrable
21 Historic times
23 Hair-styling aid
24 Assembled in order, as pages
28 Puerto —
31 Literary collection
32 E G B D F, on a staff
34 Promptly
35 Pocket-protector contents
37 Reason for a fat lip?
39 Roman 201
41 Laugh-a-minute
42 Big scissors
45 Killed a bill
49 Tumble like a house of cards
51 Therefore
52 Reed instrument
53 Always, in 13-Across
54 Read quickly
55 Youngsters
56 Method
57 Gets some rays

DOWN

1 — Wellington
2 Emanation
3 Gator's kin
4 Inn
5 Of a Greek philosopher
6 Big bother
7 Kennel cry
8 Ogling one
9 Yuletide pastime
10 Language of Pakistan
11 Rolling stone's lack
17 Journal
19 Exam format
22 Man of La Mancha
24 Ballplayer's hat
25 Single
26 Galahad's dad
27 UPS parcel, e.g.
29 Miler Sebastian
30 Possess
33 — gin fizz
36 Weighing devices
38 Swear (to)
40 A Gershwin
42 Edinburgh resident
43 Vagrant
44 Jet forth
46 Killer whale
47 New York cardinal
48 Dresses in
50 Mediterranean, e.g.

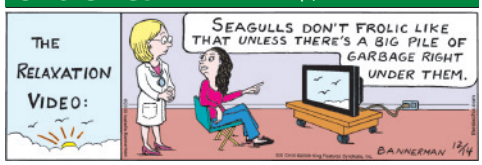
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



2	1	5	9	3	7	8	4	6
6	9	7	8	5	4	3	1	2
4	8	3	1	2	6	9	5	7
5	2	4	3	7	9	1	6	8
9	6	1	5	4	8	7	2	3
7	3	8	6	1	2	5	9	4
8	7	9	4	6	1	2	3	5
3	4	2	7	9	5	6	8	1
1	5	6	2	8	3	4	7	9

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca


THE RELAXATION VIDEO:
SEAGULLS DON'T FROLIC LIKE THAT UNLESS THERE'S A BIG PILE OF GARBAGE RIGHT UNDER THEM.
BANNERMAN 12/14

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken Satay Stir-Fry

INGREDIENTS:

1/4 cup (50 ml) smooth peanut butter
1/3 cup (75 ml) coconut milk
2 tbsp (25 ml) diluted chicken stock
1 lemon, zest finely grated
1 tbsp (15 ml) vegetable oil
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 red chili pepper, deseeded and finely chopped
12 oz (350 g) skinless chicken breast fillets, cut into thin strips
1 tbsp (15 ml) five-spice powder
1 red pepper, deseeded and sliced
2 carrots, peeled and cut into julienne strips
6 oz (175 g) button mushrooms, sliced
2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh coriander

METHOD:

1. In small bowl, whisk together peanut butter, coconut milk, stock and lemon zest until blended, then set aside.
2. Heat oil in wok or large frying pan over high heat. Add garlic and chili pepper and stir-fry 30 seconds to release flavours.
3. Add chicken and five-spice powder and stir-fry 3–4 minutes until chicken has coloured all over. Add red pepper, carrots and mushrooms and stir-fry 2–3 minutes until slightly softened.
4. Pour peanut butter mixture into wok and stir-fry 2–3 minutes until chicken is cooked through and tender. Remove from heat, stir in chopped coriander and serve immediately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A financial opportunity of some kind is certainly worth pursuing but it may not be quite as wonderful as someone is trying to make you believe.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
The Sun's aspect to Uranus today will bring about some surprising behavior among a group of people you thought were ultra conservative.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Chores and duties may be tiresome but you can't just forget about them, so you might as well tackle them in a more positive frame of mind.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't make too many plans for the next 24 hours because the approaching new moon will play havoc with your timetable.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Squabbles of one kind or another are likely today but for the most part they will be good-humored.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Chances are you'll have a lot of fun today but don't overdo it or you may regret it tomorrow.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There is no point getting angry about something you would usually dismiss as not worth the effort.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You may be a bit too domineering for some people's tastes today, so don't be surprised if you get a few negative comments.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
If you can't get what you want today you will certainly get it tomorrow or the day after that.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will be hugely enthusiastic today but watch out you don't get carried away and do something silly.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You will lose patience with someone today and it's about time. They have been leading you on for quite a while.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Generosity comes naturally to you but you need to recognize that giving too much away is not a good thing, either for yourself or for other people.

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This day in history

1812: The French invasion of Russia comes to an end as the remnants of the Grande Armée are expelled from Russia.
1819: Alabama becomes the 22nd U.S. state.
1903: The Wright Brothers make their first attempt to fly with the Wright Flyer at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
1955: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Laos, Portugal, Romania and Spain join the United Nations.
2003: President George W. Bush announces the capture of Saddam Hussein.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Tom Tom U.S. & Canada
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Bell | iPhone 3GS

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